



By GEORGE FOWLER



NOBODY'S PURR-FECT:
New Jaguar XKR serves up loads of power, but it's not very practical

FACTFILE

Jaguar XKR Convertible

PRICE (on the road): £67,495.
(range from £58,995).

ENGINE: 4,196cc, lightweight, all-alloy, quadcam, 32-valve V8 (420bhp, 413lbs torque).

TOP SPEED: 155mph (limited); 0-62mph: 5.3secs.

MPG: Urban: 14.8; extra urban: 32.9; combined: 22.8.

CO₂: 294g/km.

INS GROUP: 20.

IMAGE RATING

REAR MIRROR MONSTER: As I said about the XK, it's the best-looking Jag ever. Supercharged R version adds lots of honeycomb trim. Stunner.

BACKSIDE BEAUTY: Different class to the old XK. Sits on the road in a much more squat and purposeful manner. Brilliant.

PLAYTIME PLEASER: Dual-zone climate control, trip computer, CD-stereo, touch-screen sat-nav, parking sensors, heated seats and heated door mirrors, cruise control...

NAUGHTY NIGGLES: Tragic boot, lack of rear vision, extremely annoying parking sensors.

TASTY TOUCHES: Ultra-swish silver-trimmed interior, electric folding roof.

FAST OR LAST: Stupidly quick, with handling to match.

WONGA WONDER: A huge amount of car for the cash, if you could ignore its faults. Storming value.

WOULD AN ESSEX GIRL LIKE IT? It's massive, far too large for Tracey to handle. She'd be happy posing in the passenger seat.

IF you're short of a tow-truck down at the airport, call up... a VW Touareg. Yep, this is no stunted shot (right). It's for real.

VW reckoned that their V10 TDI Touareg, voted full-size 4x4 Towcar of the Year by The Caravan Club in 2004 and 2005, was capable of lugging around a bit more than a caravan – thanks to its monstrous 553lbs of torque.

So they hitched it up to this 155-tonne jumbo at Dunsfold aerodrome in Surrey, then proudly watched as it lugged it up and down the strip seven times at a steady 5mph – despite torrential rain and a strong headwind.

Afterwards driver Uwe Krieghoff revealed that VW have calculated that the car is actually capable of pulling 200 tonnes. He said: "If anyone can lend us a heavier aircraft, please let us know."

I SUPPOSE any engine that produces 650bhp coupled to a ludicrous 814lb of torque has to be just that bit special, especially a diesel. Audi's amazing V12 TDI proved it definitely is by powering the company to victory in this year's legendary Le Mans 24 Hours race, the first ever victory for a diesel-powered sports car.

Now the engine has won another title – "Race Engine of the Year 2006" – given by British specialist magazine Race Engine Technology. Diesel is now so popular that half of all new Audis are diesel – and the trend is increasing.



CAT-ASTROPHIC news from pet insurance company Petplan – their research shows that every two and a half minutes a cat is run over on our roads. Drivers hit 630 cats every day, which means that nearly one million are killed every year. For some strange reason Bristol is pin-pointed as the UK's cat accident black spot, with more cats being run over there than anywhere else. London is a close second, while Grimsby and Dundee have the lowest cat deaths.

The company also found that three out of four drivers have no idea what to do if they run over a cat. The answer, of course, is to run it over again to make sure it's not in any pain. What?

Tribute to Richard

MOTOR MOUTH EXTRA

Edited by
GEORGE FOWLER

★ THIS extra special Subaru Impreza WRX STI is one of a limited edition 320 being built in memory of the company's rally ace Richard Burns, who died in November 2005 from brain cancer - aged only 32.

Called the RB320, Subaru are giving away the first of these £29,995 motorised bullets in a raffle organised by Autosport magazine, with the proceeds going to the Richard Burns Foundation, which helps people suffering serious injury or illness.

★ It comes with £6,000 worth of extra equipment for a price rise of £3,500. This includes 18-inch black alloys, sports suspension and a Prodrive Performance Pack, which boosts power from 277bhp to 316bhp. Torque also rises from 289 to 332lb/ft.

Result is 0-60mph in 4.8 secs, while 100mph comes up in a shattering 12.2 secs. Top speed is limited to 158mph. Fantastic.



STUNNING: Special Impreza in memory of rally ace Richard Burns

THE LOVE MACHINE

WE LIKE CARS MORE THAN OUR PARTNERS

ONE in three British adults loves their car more than their partner.

We're so besotted with them we even treat our motors like humans, often having little chats and even sharing secrets.

In fact, we'll even invent ways to get loved ones out of the house so we can spend more time and money on our vehicles.

Meanwhile, 20% of us love our car so much we carry a picture of it in our wallet or have a framed one at home. Top Gear presenter James May likes them so much he actually

by GEORGE FOWLER
Motoring Editor



JAMES: He's got five motors

owns five cars. This ghastly and horribly sad news comes courtesy of film-makers Disney, who conducted the survey to mark the release of animated blockbuster Cars on Disney DVD.

It also showed that:

- One in three of us lavish our motors with gifts and presents.
- Nearly two million cars have their birthday celebrated every year.
- A third of motorists cry when they sell their car.

Psychologist Kurt Valerian says:

War on the cheats

POLICE in London have started a massive clampdown against uninsured drivers after figures showed they are most likely to be involved in a hit and run.

Officers using Automatic Number Plate Recognition seized 1,320 uninsured cars in just under four weeks - all in the boroughs of Hackney, Haringey and Newham.

These included two Porsches worth £150,000, a BMW Z4 and a Hummer. Another car contained half a kilo of crack cocaine and £12,000 in cash. That's what you call a crack-down.

Assistant Commissioner Tarique Ghaffur said: "By seizing these vehicles we are making a difference to people's lives, and also taking criminals off the roads."

"Logic dictates that cars are merely mechanical objects that cost a lot of money to run.

"Emotion says they provide fun, stimulation and freedom. To express our gratitude we pamper, maintain and spend more money on them than we might on real friends or family who can't be as accommodating.

"Most modern cars are considered to be user-friendly. They don't misinterpret our instructions, they don't get drunk and chat up our partners and they don't get resentful if you forget their birthday.

"It's not surprising they can seem better than our human companions."

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CORDLESS DRILLS

Brand/Model	Power	Speed	Chg. Time	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
Clarke CCD140	14.4v	3-5hr	14.4v	£14.99	£17.61
Clarke CCD180	18v	3-5hr	18v	£19.98	£23.48
Clarke CCD240	24v	3-5hr	24v	£29.98	£35.23
Devilbiss DW727KA12v	12v	1hr	14.4v	£99.98	£117.48
Bosch PSR12	12v	3hr	42.99	£50.51	
Bosch PSR14.4*	14.4v	3hr	49.98	£58.73	
Bosch PSR18*	18v	3hr	59.98	£70.48	

* FREE Digital Tape Measure with this drill

Clarke CONCRETE MIXERS

Model	Engine Motor	Capacity (Ltr)	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
Clarke CCM50 NEW	230v	30	£109.98	£129.23
Clarke CCM125C	230v	125	£139.98	£164.48
Belle Mini 140	230v	90	£189.98	£223.23
Belle Mini 150	230v	90	£214.99	£252.61
Belle Mini 150	110v	90	£239.98	£281.98
Belle Mini 140	Honda 2.5HP	90	£359.98	£422.98
Belle Mini 150	2.5HP	90	£389.98	£458.23

Clarke CCM50 was £149.98 inc VAT.

Clarke CCM125C was £176.15 inc VAT.



AIR COMPRESSORS

Model	CFM	HP	Litres	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
Tiger 8/40	7	1.5	24	£64.99	£76.36
Ranger 35	7	1.5	24	£79.98	£93.98
Tiger 8/45 Oil Free	6.3	1.5	24	£84.99	£99.86
Panther 25	8.2	2.0	24	£129.98	£152.73
Panther 50	8.2	2.0	50	£169.98	£199.73
Tiger 15/55	14	3.0	50	£259.98	£305.48

ELECTRIC SUBMERSIBLE WATER PUMPS

Model	Max Flow (Litres/Metres)	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT	
Janit Hippo 70	5.5	£34.99	£41.11	
HIPPO 3A 100	6.0	£42.99	£50.51	
CSV118	118	5.0	£54.99	£64.61
CSV240	236	9.0	£89.98	£105.73

* Vortex (non-clog) pump, handles solds up to 30mm diameter.

Clarke MIG WELDERS

Model	Amps	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
MIG 85ENB	85	£94.99	£111.61
MIG 90EN	90	£129.98	£152.73
MIG 105EN	100	£139.98	£164.48
MIG 135TE	130	£159.98	£187.98
MIG 151TE	150	£189.98	£223.23

FANTASTIC 300 PIECE TOOL KIT!

Clarke	AF/METRIC HOME/GARAGE REPAIR KIT	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
Model CHT54S	7 tray inserts including: Socket Sets, Ratchet Handles, Hex Key Sets, Extension Bars, Screwdrivers, Wrenches, Pliers, Hammer, Hacksaw, Knife, Tape Measure, Bits & Fasteners ... and more	£84.99	£99.86

DRILL PRESSES

Model	Speed	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
CDP5000	240v	£29.98	£35.23
CDP151B*	300v	£79.98	£93.98
CDP108*	370/12	£89.98	£105.73
CDP15F*	370/12	£109.98	£129.23
CDP3018*	510/12	£134.99	£158.61
CDP351F*	510/12	£149.98	£176.23

* Floor standing models, 1 bench mounted models

FREE CATALOGUE

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CAST IRON STOVES

Model	BTU	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
POT BELLY (Standard)	10,000	£59.98	£70.42
POT BELLY (Large)	15,000	£79.98	£93.98
POT BELLY (Ex-Large)	24,000	£99.98	£117.48
BOXWOOD	25,000	£109.98	£129.23
BARREL	20,000	£139.98	£164.48
BOXWOOD (Deluxe)	50,000	£159.98	£187.98
PARLOUR	37,500	£249.98	£293.73
COTTAGER	23,000	£299.98	£352.48

FLUE PIPES & COMPANION SETS AVAILABLE

Clarke TURBO FAN GAS HEATERS

Model	BTU/Hr	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
Little DEVIL	35,000	£69.98	£82.23
DEVIL 650	51,600	£99.98	£117.48
DEVIL 850	107,000	£139.98	£164.48
DEVIL 1250	149,000	£169.98	£199.73
DEVIL 1850	230,000	£249.98	£293.73
DEVIL 3000	281,000	£299.98	£352.48
DEVIL 3150	344,000	£399.98	£469.98

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

CLARKE DIESEL/PARAFFIN FIRED

Model	BTU/Hr	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
XRG5	5,100	£219.98	£258.48
XRG7	7,900	£269.98	£317.23
XR105	16,000	£309.98	£364.23
XR155	150,000	£349.98	£411.23
XRG100*	88,000	£499.00	£586.33

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

2.5Kw METAL FAN HEATER

Model	Code	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
Model 22104		£32.89	
Model 22105		£32.89	
Model 22106		£32.89	

* All metal heater ideal for garage & workshop

* Adjustable thermostat plus fan only setting

* Auto frost protection if room temp falls

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

HONEYWELL

Model	Starting	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
900	400	£29.98	£35.23
910*	400	£39.98	£46.98
4000	700	£64.99	£76.36

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

GENERATORS HONDA ENGINES

Model	KVA/P	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
1501	1.5/3.5	£259.98	£305.48
2850	2.75/5	£319.00	£374.83
3550	3.4/6.5	£399.00	£468.83
5050	5.0/9.0	£759.00	£860.33

1501 was £327.93 inc VAT

* Includes Air Compressor

SPLITS LOGS UP TO 12" (250mm) DIAMETER

Model	Max Charge	Max Boost	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
BC100B	15	100	£36.99	£43.46
BC130	15	120	£44.99	£54.61
BC210E	25	200	£74.99	£88.11
BC410E	35	400	£99.98	£117.48
BC320E	35	310	£119.98	£140.98

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

* Includes Air Compressor

Clarke ELECTRIC LOG BUSTER

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

* Capacity 520mm long x 250mm dia.

* Huge 4 ton hydraulic power

* Powerful 1500w, 230v motor

BATTERY CHARGERS ENGINE STARTERS

* Keep your battery charged ... even with flat battery

Model	Amps	Amps	OUR PRICE EX-VAT	OUR PRICE INC. VAT
BC100B	15	100	£36.99	£43.46
BC130	15	120	£44.99	£54.61
BC210E	25	200	£74.99	£88.11
BC410E	35	400	£99.98	£117.48
BC320E	35	310	£119.98	£140.98

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

* Includes Air Compressor

Clarke

LOG BUSTER

* Features integral 140mm chimney vent

* Capacity 520mm long x 250mm dia.

* Huge 4 ton hydraulic power

* Powerful 1500w, 230v motor

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CASH PRICE £10995
25% DEPOSIT £2748.75. CREDIT £8246.25.
INTEREST £239.35. £176 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY
FEE (ON 1ST PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST
PAYMENT) £50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £13473.55. 10.9% APR

Vauxhall Astra 05 Life only
£7346 SAVE £6266
from new 55 list price*



CASH PRICE £7346.
25% DEPOSIT £1836.50. CREDIT £559.50. INTEREST £155.10.
£17.76 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY FEE (ON 1ST
PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST PAYMENT)
£50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £8052.10. 10.9% APR

VECTRA SRi (150) 06 only
£11995 SAVE £6557
from new 56 list price*



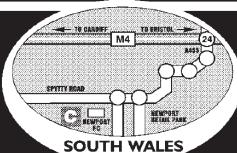
CASH PRICE £11995.
25% DEPOSIT £2998.75. CREDIT £8996.25.
INTEREST £254.15. £192.19 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY
FEE (ON 1ST PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST
PAYMENT) £50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £14666.15. 10.9% APR

Kia Sedona 55 only
£11795 SAVE £6322
from new 56 list price*

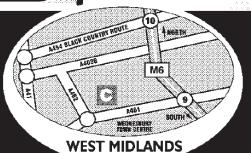


CASH PRICE £11795.
25% DEPOSIT £2998.75. CREDIT £8994.25.
INTEREST £254.15. £192.19 OVER 60 MONTHS. CREDIT FACILITY
FEE (ON 1ST PAYMENT) £100. TITLE DISCHARGE FEE (ON LAST
PAYMENT) £50. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £14413.55. 10.9% APR

...finance settled³, any old car as deposit.



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£3-06 Ford Ka from	£26950	X-08 Toyota Yaris from	£3731
£2-06 Honda Jazz from	£3750	X-08 Volkswagen Eos from	£2990
£1-06 Mini from	£3650	X-08 Volkswagen Golf from	£2294
£1-06 Nissan Micra from	£2398	X-08 Vauxhall Corsa from	£2294
£1-06 Vauxhall Corsa from	£2398	X-08 Vauxhall Meriva from	£3850
£1-06 Nissan Micra from	£3595	X-08 VW Polo from	£3490

OVER 300 MEDIUM CARS

£1-06 Alfa Romeo 147 from	£4995	X-02 Renault Megane from	£2974
£1-06 Chrysler Neon from	£22974	X-02 Rover 25 from	£2790
£1-06 Citroen Xsara from	£22974	X-03 Rover 45 from	£2850
£1-06 Fiat Croma from	£22974	X-04 Seat Altea from	£8950
£1-06 Fiat Bravo/Brava from	£23974	X-06 Seat Leon from	£3950
£1-06 Fiat Stilo from	£34950	X-06 Skoda Octavia from	£4950
£1-06 Ford Focus from	£3750	X-06 Toyota Corolla from	£4950
£1-06 Honda Civic from	£35950	X-03 Vauxhall Astra from	£2850
£1-06 Honda Fit from	£23974	X-06 Vauxhall Corsa from	£2850
£1-06 Nissan Almera from	£23974	X-06 Volvo S40 from	£4290
£1-06 Peugeot 206 from	£34350	X-06 VW Beetle from	£5950
£1-06 Peugeot 307 from	£4350	X-06 VW Bora from	£4290
£1-06 Renault Megane from	£4750	X-06 VW Golf from	£4290

OVER 300 LARGE CARS

£0-06 Chrysler PT Cruiser from	£5450	Y-06 Peugeot 206 CC from	£6550
£0-06 Citroen C5 from	£3458	Y-06 Peugeot 306 from	£3850
£0-06 Ford Mondeo from	£22974	Y-06 Renault Megane Cabrio from	£5950
£0-06 Ford Mondeo ST from	£68450	Y-06 Renault Megane Cabrio from	£5950
£0-06 Honda Accord from	£38590	Y-06 Toyota Avensis from	£3750
£0-06 Honda Accord 2.0 from	£3750	Y-06 Vauxhall Astra from	£2850
£0-06 Honda Accord 2.2 from	£3750	Y-06 Vauxhall Astra from	£2850
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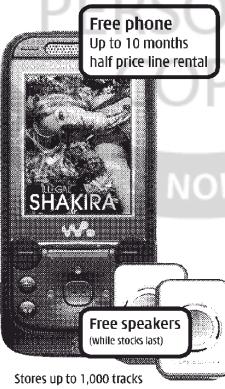
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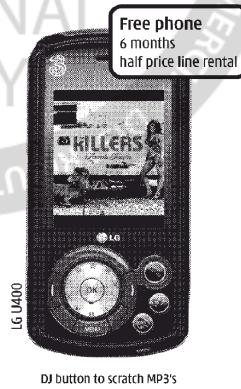
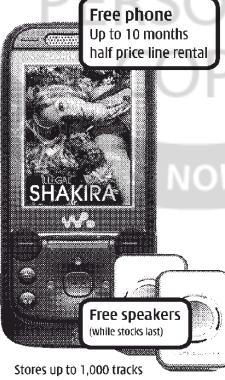
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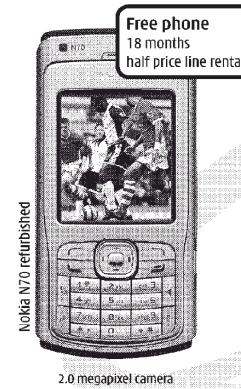
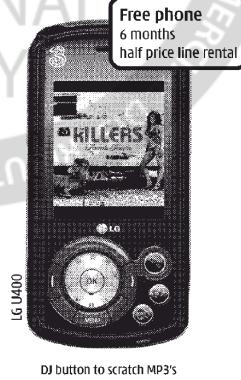
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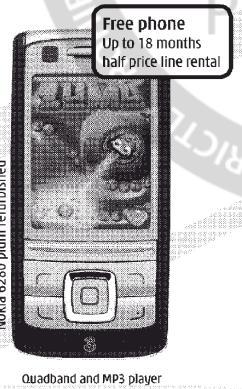
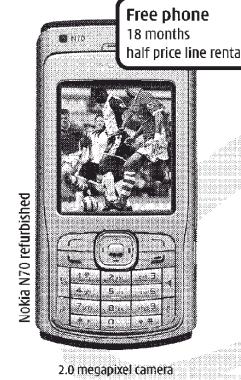
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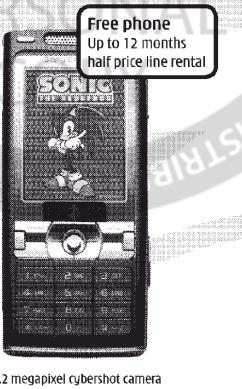
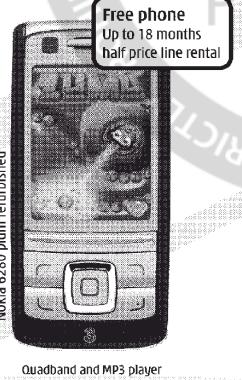
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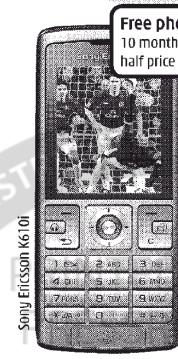
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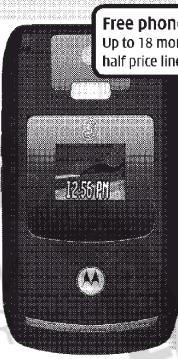
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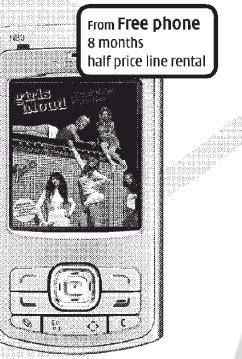
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DAILY STAR Mobiles

WHICH mobile phone will be the easiest to slip in your Christmas stocking this year?

If you're spoilt for choice, leading online mobile phone retailer OneStopphoneshop has lined up some of the leading contenders for the title Slim line phone of the Year.

Samsung D900, Size: 104 x 51 x 13 mm

The ultimate slim slider phone, and to date, the thinnest slider phone ever designed; the Samsung D900 is a sensational handset. The physical appearance of the phone, with its smooth magnesium surface coating and neat but highly functional keypad, give it a real touch of class, but the most exciting features of the D900 can be

found when you slide the phone open to reveal a 3.2 megapixel camera for taking amazing photos, and a large, bright 262K-colour screen, perfect for viewing web browsing and streaming videos. There's a good quality digital music player that can handle a full range of formats, including MP3, ACC, ACC+ and eAAC+ - and gives excellent sound reproduction with a digital power amplifier. It's also very easy to use, so if you want slim with all the trimmings, the Samsung D900 is the one for you.

Motorola L6, Size: 113 x 49 x 10.9 mm

For a time, the L6 held the title 'thinnest mobile phone available in the UK', stealing the thunder of its big

brother the original skinny phone, the Motorola RAZR V3.

Even slimmer than the Motorola SLVR L7, the stylish yet simple candy-bar L6 loses nothing on the feature front. It has an attractive chemically-etched metallic keypad, and toughened glass to protect the display, while the overall design of the phone is striking, and leaves you wondering how on earth Motorola managed to squeeze in a VGA camera, MP3 player, Bluetooth and Java games, plus many more features, into such a tiny handset.

LG Chocolate KG800, Size: 95 x 48 x 15 mm

Let's not forget one of this year's fashion favourites, the delectable LG

Chocolate. It may not have quite the same slender proportions as other phones in the market, but at 15mm wide, with beautiful dark brown gloss finish and silver detail, it is a stunningly slick.

It's a slider with a touch sensitive keypad, and a full complement of features including a 1.3 megapixel camera with flash, video camera, and high quality internal display. The Chocolate also has an MP3 player that can handle a wide range of formats.

OneStopphoneshop is offering the Samsung D900 with eight months' line rental at £0.99 on T-Mobile, plus, up to 900 minutes of cross network calls per month, or up to 1800 texts every month.



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ROBBEN THE BANKER

THE Coral Essex Vase is one of the highlights of the year at **Romford** and **FEAR ROBBEN** (9.20) could light up tonight's first round.

It should be a great evening with with a top quality entry for the 36-runner competition and what promises to be a six fiercely contested heats.

Mark Wallis sends out a very strong team of eight and it is no surprise to see the likes of Fear Robben and Eye Onthe Veto head the ante post lists.

Fear Robben puts his credentials on the line in heat five and can boost his claims for outright honours with a fluent success.

He made a shock exit from the first round of the St Leger at Wimbleton, but shaped well in a decent trial stakes over C&D last week.

Set to come on a bundle for that run, the Grand Prix runner up can use his awesome middle pace to bound clear.

EYE ONTHE VETO (9.36)

■ by JIM AUSTIN of the RACING POST

has been in superb form over four bents this term and couldn't have answered the stamina question more decisively when bolting up in a trial stakes over C&D last week, posting a smart 35.55 in the process.

That was a magnificent effort considering that was his first look round and he is impossible to oppose.

Shelburne Ryan is flying the flag for Team Wallis in the opening heat and is more than capable of making the perfect start in a competitive heat.

Tactics

However, Eclipse Finalist **MACKREL SKY** (8.17) arrives off the back of a bold success over 590m at Belle Vue and his front running tactics can see him overcome lack of a recent look round.

CARLIN HONCHO (8.32) hasn't been too consistent round Sittingbourne of late, but Tony Collett's dog boats a good strike rate at Romford

and can prove too strong in heat two.

St Leger Finalist **BLISSFUL CLASSIC** (8.48) is hardly one to support with the utmost confidence following some mixed displays.

But he does have a touch of class and Tony Collett's charge can show his true colours with a trap to line success in heat three.

St Leger hero **Ninja Blue** failed to follow up in the equivalent at Coventry, but is another huge name hoping to steal the show in the opening round.

He is clearly well equipped to strut his stuff round this tricky venue, but Charlie Lister's charge has had some hard races of late, and in **WESTMEAD AOIFA** (9.04), faces a fresh bitch who really thrives in competitions.

Coral bet: 4 Eye Onthe Veto, 5 Fear Robben, Westmead Aoifa, 7 Ninja Blue, 8 Blissful Classic, Bubbly Tajo 16 bar.

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Kauto holds aces

CHAMPION TRAINER Paul Nicholls is prepared to by-pass a crack at the £1million Betfair challenge by running brilliant chaser Kauto Star in tomorrow's William Hill Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown.

The brilliant winner of the Betfair Chase at Haydock last time drops down from three to two miles as he bids for back-to-back victories in the Sandown showpiece.

"I wouldn't worry if it came up very soft, stamina would come more into play," added Nicholls.

Miss

Kauto Star put himself in line for the bonus when winning the Betfair Chase at Haydock on his latest start.

But Nicholls says he will not be upset if they miss the second leg of the series, the Stan James King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day.

"If we win on Saturday and miss the King George, no-one is going to be crying about it because there's plenty of races in the spring," he pointed out.

"But there's three weeks and two days after Saturday for the King George."

SANDOWN: 09067 513 611 (Res 601) [Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline]

RACING UK

TONY LEWIS	STAR TIP
1.00 POUVOIR	1.00 SUPSONIC
1.30 DANCE MACABRE	1.30 KALDOUAS
2.05 LABELTHOU	2.05 LABELTHOU
2.35 THE LISTENER	2.35 STAR DE MOHAISON
3.10 KELANTAN	3.10 BUBBLE BOY
3.20 HONOR NOW	3.40 BRAVEWOOD (nap)
STARFORM: 2.05 Labelthou (nap), 3.55 (Exeter) Imminent Victory (trable); 6.20 (Wolverhampton) Atlantic Story (nb).	CLOCKFORM: 1.40 (Exeter) Tora Bora 2pts win
ROTTWEILER: 1.00 Pouvoir 1.30 Charlton Kings 2.05 Granit Jack 2.35 Star de Mohaison 3.10 Kelantan 3.40 Tarotino	GOING: Good to Soft-Soft in Places

GOING: Good to Soft-Soft in Places	
JACKPOT, & PLACEPOT: First six races.	
1.00 BANK OF NEW YORK JUVENILE NOVICES' HURDLE	
Class 1 (8 flights) 2m/f (6 runners) 25,205	
1 COCKATOO (14) 2m/f 11.00... R Moore 11.00	
2 POUVOIR (14) 2m/f 11.00... R T Brier 11.00	
3 SUPER FRANK (48) 1m/f 11.00... J T J O'Brien 11.00	
4 R SUPSONIC (20) (BF) P Hobbs 3.11.00... J McCarthy 11.00	
5 SYNONYMO (10) M Blanched 3.11.00... R Greene 11.00	
6 IN HOPE (20) M L J Young 3.10.00... J McCarthy 11.00	
Star Betting: 1.00 Pouvoir, 1.30 Supsonic, 8 Synonymy, 33 In Hope, 50 Cockatoo, Super Frank.	
2005: Spidam, 3.1-4, (B J Geraghty, 6-4 fav) P Nicholls, 8 ran.	

STARFORM: POUVOIR Danger: Supsonic	
1.30 WILLIAMHILLCASINO.COM NOVICES' HCAP CHASE	
Class 3 (17 flocks) 2m/f (6 runners) 6,506	
1 IDRIS (19) (A,S) G Moore 5.11.00... J E Moore 9.9	
2 6014-F KALDOUAS (27) (BF,S) P Hobbs 5.11.00... R Walsh 9.9	
3 61/P-44 LADY KELANTAN (19) (S) P Hobbs 8.11.00... N McLean 9.9	
4 5P52U23 CHARLTON KINGS (14) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 8.11.00... M J Snowdon 9.9	
5 0013/04 DANSE MACABRE (27) (C,D,S) A Carroll 7.11.00... W McLean 9.9	
6 30215C TOPINAMOUR (29) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 6.11.00... R McGrath 9.9	
7 Star Betting: 1.30 Kaldozas, 3 Idris, 4 Charlton Kings, 5 Topinamour, 12 Johnston's Swallow, Danse Macabre.	
2005: Harrys Bay, 6-11, (T J Murphy, 9-4 fav) Miss H Knight, 5 ran.	

STARFORM: IDRIS Danger: Kaldozas	
2.05 NOVICES' HURDLE (GRADE 2)	
Class 1 (10 flights) 2m/f (5 runners) £15,966	
1 3P-01 CHAMACO (9) (F,S) M Hams 6.11.00... M D Grant 99	
2 4/F40-10 BONCLIFFE (12) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 6.11.00... J Moore 99	
3 4/2-1F1 PASS IT ON (5) (D,S) Jon Nell 7.11.00... N Feely 10.9	
4 01111-3 GRANT JACK (4) (F,G,S) P Nicholls 6.11.00... J McCarthy 9.9	
5 63-151 LABELTHOU (12) (D,S) Miss E Laville 7.11.00... B Fenton 83	
6 Star Betting: 1.30 Kaldozas, 3 Idris, 4 Charlton Kings, 5 Topinamour, 12 Johnston's Swallow, Danse Macabre.	
2005: Harrys Bay, 6-11, (T J Murphy, 9-4 fav) Miss H Knight, 5 ran.	

STARFORM: LABELTHOU Danger: Pass It On	
2.05 NOVICES' HURDLE (GRADE 2)	
Class 1 (10 flights) 2m/f (5 runners) £15,966	
1 3P-01 CHAMACO (9) (F,S) M Hams 6.11.00... M D Grant 99	
2 4/F40-10 BONCLIFFE (12) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 6.11.00... J Moore 99	
3 4/2-1F1 PASS IT ON (5) (D,S) Jon Nell 7.11.00... N Feely 10.9	
4 01111-3 GRANT JACK (4) (F,G,S) P Nicholls 6.11.00... J McCarthy 9.9	
5 63-151 LABELTHOU (12) (D,S) Miss E Laville 7.11.00... B Fenton 83	
6 Star Betting: 1.30 Kaldozas, 3 Idris, 4 Charlton Kings, 5 Topinamour, 12 Johnston's Swallow, Danse Macabre.	
2005: Harrys Bay, 6-11, (T J Murphy, 9-4 fav) Miss H Knight, 5 ran.	

STARFORM: KALDOUAS Danger: Bubble Boy	
3.10 HANDICAP CHASE	
Class 3 (22 fences) 3m/f (4 runners) £15,658	
1 233-221 MALETON (29) (S) G Moore 5.11.00... J E Moore 9.9	
2 6014-F KALDOUAS (27) (BF,S) P Hobbs 5.11.00... R Walsh 9.9	
3 61/P-44 LADY KELANTAN (19) (S) P Hobbs 8.11.00... N McLean 9.9	
4 5P52U23 CHARLTON KINGS (14) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 8.11.00... M J Snowdon 9.9	
5 0013/04 DANSE MACABRE (27) (C,D,S) A Carroll 7.11.00... W McLean 9.9	
6 30215C TOPINAMOUR (29) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 6.11.00... R McGrath 9.9	
7 2103-9 KELANTAN (31) (BF,D,G,S) P Hobbs 9.11.00... J McCarthy 9.9	
8 2005: Latimer's Place, 9-11-2, (P O'Neil 10/5), 10-3 J Gaze, 6 ran.	

STARFORM: LABELTHOU Danger: Bubble Boy	
3.10 HANDICAP CHASE	
Class 3 (22 fences) 3m/f (4 runners) £15,658	
1 233-221 MALETON (29) (S) G Moore 5.11.00... J E Moore 9.9	
2 6014-F KALDOUAS (27) (BF,S) P Hobbs 5.11.00... R Walsh 9.9	
3 61/P-44 LADY KELANTAN (19) (S) P Hobbs 8.11.00... N McLean 9.9	
4 5P52U23 CHARLTON KINGS (14) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 8.11.00... M J Snowdon 9.9	
5 0013/04 DANSE MACABRE (27) (C,D,S) A Carroll 7.11.00... W McLean 9.9	
6 30215C TOPINAMOUR (29) (F,G,S) R Hobbs 6.11.00... R McGrath 9.9	
7 2103-9 KELANTAN (31) (BF,D,G,S) P Hobbs 9.11.00... J McCarthy 9.9	
8 2005: Latimer's Place, 9-11-2, (P O'Neil 10/5), 10-3 J Gaze, 6 ran.	

STARFORM: KELANTAN Danger: Bubble Boy	
3.40 NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE	
Class 3 (8 flights) 2m/f (10 runners) £5,205	
1 120-211 THIRY NOW (10) (D,Q,S) C Mann 4.11.00... N Feely 11.0	
2 039-600 A STORM TOWER (17) (S) P Hobbs 4.11.00... R Walsh 11.0	
3 001-300 A STORM TOWER (17) (S) P Hobbs 4.11.00... R Walsh 11.0	
4 01111-3 GRANT JACK (4) (F,G,S) P Nicholls 4.11.00... J McCarthy 11.0	
5 63-151 LABELTHOU (12) (D,S) Miss E Laville 4.11.00... B Fenton 83	
6 Star Betting: 1.30 Kaldozas, 3 Idris, 4 Charlton Kings, 5 Topinamour, 12 Johnston's Swallow, Danse Macabre.	
2005: Harrys Bay, 6-11, (T J Murphy, 9-4 fav) Miss H Knight, 5 ran.	

STARFORM: LACEWORK Danger: Lawyers Choice	
4.20 E.B.F. MAIDEN FILLIES' STAKES	
Class 5 2YO 7f3yds (10 runners) £4,534	
1 (6) 34 AMBER ISLE (13) D Carroll 9.0... D Tudehope 34	
2 (2) BLACKLEY (1) Williams 9.0... P Hanagan 34	
3 (11) 05 BOLD SAXON (30) M Usher 9.0... Hayley Turner 56	
4 (1) 40 BOLD SONG (1) Williams 9.0... J P Spencer 56	
5 (4) 42 LITTLE ESKIMO (18) (BF) S Smart 9.0... T Eaves 53	
6 (6) NOT TO KNOW (A) J Quinn (9) S Hitchcott 30	
7 Star Betting: 1-4 Little Eskimo, 3 Amber Isle, 7-2 D McFab, 6 Bold Saxon, 7 Blackley, 8 Not to Know.	
2005: No corresponding meeting.	

STARFORM: LACEWORK Danger: Dudley Docker	
5.50 WBX.COM WORLD BET EXCHANGE HCAP	
Class 5 7f (12 runners) £3,886	
1 (12) 2100 CORRIB (17) (CD,A,F) R Pelling 3.9.2... A Culhane 38	
2 (7) 0040 SUNSET (9) (FIP) P Windholt 4.9.2... S Carson 51	
3 (4) 04 REGAL RANGER (16) S Carson 3.9.2... T Eaves 50	
4 (1) 42-1F1 LACEWORK (26) (BF) S McLean 3.9.2... J P Spencer 50	
5 (1) 2103-9 LACEWORK (26) (BF) S McLean 3.9.2... J P Spencer 50	
6 (5) 1202-10 LACEWORK (26) (BF) S McLean 3.9.2... J P Spencer 50	
7 (5) 2103-9 LACEWORK (26) (BF) S McLean 3.9.2... J P Spencer 50	
8 (5) 2002-03 LACEWORK (26) (BF) S McLean 3.9.2... J P Spencer 50	
9 (2) 2002-03 LACEWORK (26) (BF) S McLean 3.9.2... J P Spencer 50	
10 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
11 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
12 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
13 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
14 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
15 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
16 (8) 0343 TIPSY ME (21) Bell 13.9.0... E Coughlin 41	
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DAILY GAMING COLUMN

COLD CALLING IN DECEMBER

Without wanting to sound remotely "clothe-ist" I was surprised, particularly in the midst of winter, to discover how popular strip poker has become in Universities up and down the country. One contest in which students were frantically trying to bluff each other into the buff had come up with the rather counter-productive idea of offering T-shirts as prizes? Maybe they're not as bright as we all thought they were?

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Some of the very best developments to come out of the online poker phenomena are the scores of chances almost any one of us can have of winning a free buy-in to a major tournament where massive fortunes can and are often won by relative newcomers. We've all heard the Chris Moneymaker and Joe Hachem stories, but there are literally dozens more big-buck beginner-breakthroughs like that unfolding online all over the globe every week. Why is this such a good thing? Because if you would like the undoubted privilege of going up against a poker legend like Doyle Brunson at his favorite haunt, The Bellagio Casino, Las Vegas, a buy-in for his Five Diamond Classic will cost you a whopping \$15,000. This level of buy-in is not uncommon for special events in gaming circles, and it's only through online poker sites like 888 that the average Joe or Joanne gets the opportunity to gate-crash the big parties, all expenses paid. The big one to look out for, beyond our own current "Caribbean Adventure", is the 2007 World Series of Poker next summer, when the prize pool is predicted to reach \$120,000,000, with the winner walking away with a cool \$15,000,000. If that's not enough to have you honing your online skills, I give up!

LEARN THE GOLD-EN LESSON

Regular followers of this column will know that we have reported on the case of this year's WSOP winner Jamie Gold and his alleged deal with a sponsor. The deal in dispute, allegedly agreed over a telephone, was to the effect that Jamie would contribute half of any winnings should he hit the \$12,000,000 jackpot to the alleged sponsor for services rendered. A court has withheld \$6,000,000 pending a decision on the merits of the case. Be warned! If you enter into any agreement to be bankrolled, sponsored or in any way assisted with an attempt to fight your way to the final table at the WSOP or any other large-scale event, make sure it's in writing and properly drawn up. Better still, compete regularly to win a free buy-in online and avoid the hassle altogether.

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THE ASHES: It's a ruse says Gough

THE BIG VAUGHAN BLUFF



OUT OF PRACTICE:
Vaughan lasted just seven balls in Perth on Wednesday

DARREN GOUGH believes Michael Vaughan has no chance of playing in the Ashes and is simply trying to unsettle Australia by claiming he is close to a Test return.

Gough reckons his close friend Vaughan's knee injury will not allow him to come back into the England side until the middle of January at the earliest – after the series is over.

England are keen for Vaughan, who skipped them to the Ashes last year, to complete a quick recovery.

And it has even been suggested he could play in the third Test in Perth in a fortnight.

Deep

But paceman Gough, who hopes to extend his international career by being selected for the World Cup next year, rubbish suggestions Vaughan was nearly ready to come back.

Gough said: "I know Michael would love to play but deep down he knows he is just trying to get fit for the one-dayers.

"If he does get back it will be a terrific effort from the England physio Wayne Morton but it is hard to see it happening.

"Michael has done very well over here in the past and England will be happy to keep Australia guessing on this one."

Vaughan played his first competitive

from MARTIN ROGERS in Adelaide

match for eight months on Wednesday for the England Academy side against Western Australia's second XI but was out for a seventh ball duck.

He has tried to talk up his chances of coming back earlier than planned and wants to reclaim his position as captain from Andrew Flintoff.

But Gough added: "He is a terrific player and a very good leader. England will want to get him back as soon as possible but he has to be ready.

"There is no point him coming back too soon and risking the possibility that the problem could come back again. He has to be right."

Gough's 2002-03 Down Under tour was ruined by a knee complaint similar to the one that has kept Vaughan on the sidelines.

Vaughan is hoping to get in more competitive batting over the next fortnight but is still some way short of full match fitness.

He was unable to field for all of the Western Australian innings on Wednesday and had his knee heavily iced before he batted.

Vaughan won the man of the series award Down Under four years ago.

ENGLAND'S batting coach Matt Maynard will miss the second Test after flying home to look after his wife Sue, who broke her hip and arm in a fall at home.

Read our exclusive close of play report every morning at www.dailystar.co.uk

WAGS have been fab



ANDREW FLINTOFF has thanked the England cricket WAGs for not turning their tour of Australia into a World Cup-style circus.

The cricketers' partners have kept a low profile since arriving Down Under – in contrast to the football WAGs whose late-night boozing sessions made the headlines in Germany.

England cricket issued a stern

by MARTIN ROGERS

warning before the tour that any high jinks from players' partners would not be tolerated.

And they have had nothing to worry about as the babes, led by Flintoff's stunning wife Rachael and Kevin Pietersen's girlfriend, Jessica Taylor of Liberty X, have behaved perfectly.

Flintoff said: "I like having my

family around, I have made no secret of that. I suppose playing with my kids and things helps me switch off for a while.

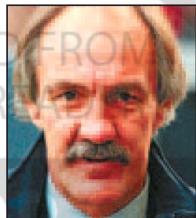
"But we are here to play cricket and that is the most important thing. The attention has got to be on that.

"It is nice having them around but we have got to make sure we are fully concentrated on getting our games right."

SERIOUSLY
football

Morecambe inspired by town's legend

The FA CUP e-on



UTTLEY: Concerns

SUNSHINE BOYS CHEER SAMMY

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

SAMMY McILROY is hoping it will be a case of 'Bring Me Sunshine' when his non-league Morecambe side take on Swindon in the FA Cup tomorrow.

In a bizarre big-match build-up, McIlroy supervised a laugh-a-minute beach training session right in front of a statue of the town's most famous son, Eric Morecambe.

The unusual preparation by the Nationwide Conference club, ahead of their second round tie at League Two Swindon, came out of necessity.

Bad weather had robbed the non-leaguers of any suitable grass training pitches.

Boss McIlroy said: "We had to do our training session on the beach and it turned out to be a real laugh."

"Eric's statue was right behind us and when you are playing just in front of such a great you can't help but do things with a smile on your face."

McIlroy, the last of the Busby Babes, has forged a great working relationship with his assistant Mark Lillis in their managerial associations at Macclesfield, Stockport and Northern Ireland.

They have been at Morecambe for a year and last season took them to the play-offs in the Conference where they currently occupy sixth spot.

Respect

"We go back a long, long way to our playing days when we both joined Manchester City and have worked well together," said Lillis.

"We really do have a good laugh together and it all helps foster a great team spirit."

"Sammy's strength is man-management and his ability to win the respect of the players. He's completely straight with them. They know he's been a top player."

McIlroy, who played in three FA Cup finals during 13 years at Manchester United, agrees that their approach is working well at the Lancashire seaside town.

He says of Lillis: "There's never a dull moment when he's about. He's deadly serious once the football starts but there's also a time for a laugh and a joke and Mark knows exactly how to strike a balance."

McIlroy takes his side to the high-fliers Swindon knowing that they are the underdogs. He said: "We're under no illusions but we will be going there to give it a right go, believe me."

Morecambe's management pair certainly believe they have the capability of causing an upset with Lillis saying: "We have got some players who can play at a higher level."

"In my book, that means that the Swindon game will provide them with a good benchmark to show just what they are capable of and judge just how close they are to players who are in the League."

Striker Michael Twiss played at Manchester United as a youth while Ged Brannan, who can play in either defence or midfield, is a former Manchester City player.

Morecambe also had two players in the England Non-League team that defeated Holland 4-1 in midweek.

Midfielder Craig Stanley captained the side which also included defender Adam Yates.



CUP KING'S LYNN: Captain Mark Warren (left) and manager Shaun Carey

Fame game's Uttley stupid

■ by ALISTAIR GRANT

ROGER UTTLEY last night urged the Rugby Football Union: Pick England's new coach from your backroom boys and don't gamble on a famous face.

The former England coach insists a knee-jerk, big-name appointment as Andy Robinson's successor would be a risk.

Former South Africa coach Nick Mallett and ex-Ireland coach Warren Gatland are in the frame to pick up the pieces of Robinson's disastrous reign, which ended with his axing on Wednesday.

But Uttley, who coached England to the 1991 World Cup final and was team manager from 1997 to 1999, believes Robinson's backroom boasts enough experience to take over.

Elite

Robinson was supported by backs coach Brian Ashton, forwards coach John Wells and defence coach Mike Ford, as well as the RFU's academy director Conor O'Shea and Kevin Bowring, head of elite coach development.

Harrow schoolmaster Uttley, 57, said: "There are very good people already involved in the RFU, while other people are in the middle of contracts.

"The RFU have got to make sure they don't go for a short-term response which costs them later."

"What they should do is look at the people involved in the current team."

"There are a heap of people with vast experience in the RFU, apart from Brian Ashton and John Wells. There are people like Conor O'Shea and Kevin Bowring."

Harlequins director of rugby Dean Richards has shown interest in the job.

He said: "If the RFU wanted to talk to me I wouldn't rule it out."

"I would need to know what was involved and the kind of job it would be."

We're out for a King's win

■ KING'S LYNN caretaker boss Shaun Carey is backing his Southern Premier League minnows to upset Oldham tonight.

The ex-Norwich and Republic of Ireland U-21 international insists the lowest-ranked team left in this year's competition can shock John Sheridan's men on the biggest night in the tiny Norfolk club's history.

■ "No one would've expected us to get this far," he said. "I just don't want the lads to freeze in front of the television cameras. There'd be no point turning up if we didn't believe we could win. I feel we can win any game and Oldham is no exception."

MARC MAKES US HOT SHOTS

■ by RALPH ELLIS

ALDERSHOT boss Terry Brown fears a glamour third round FA Cup tie could hurt him - by reminding the football world that Marcus Gayle is still about.

Brown persuaded the 36-year-old former Wimbledon, Watford and Rangers striker to drop into the Conference when he was released by Brentford last summer.

And the Jamaican international has inspired Shots' climb to the edge of the play-off zone as well as reaching tomorrow's second round tie with Basingstoke.

Brown said: "It's been like

signing two players because he's been magnificent for us at centre forward in some games and centre-half at others.

"He's also an outstanding example to our younger players around the club in the way he trains and conducts himself.

Cash

"I thought Brentford made a big mistake in letting him go, and it was a huge thing for us to persuade him to come into the Conference."

Brown is hoping victory might earn his club some cash to pursue their real goal - emulating Accrington Stanley by coming back from bankruptcy to rejoin the Football League.

He said: "Like us they have worked back up from the bottom of the pyramid, and we feel that if we can make it, we have a bigger supporter base than them to take the club further forward."

"One of the things this Cup tie is about is giving us the chance to strengthen in the January window, and act as a catalyst to getting our league form going."

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TEXTS TO RODNEY

Oh Rodney you've lost the plot! Chelki have a fraction of Man U or Liverpool fan base built up over yrs. Joe, Spurs 4 life

WELL SAID RODNEY
BECKHAM SHOULD HAVE GONE TO AMERICA LONG AGO AS BEEN A JOKE NO SKILL AT ALL. KEN

yes u r right its about time someone realised that beckham is one of the best players there is! He shows more devotion to the game than any player. ANON
why will chavski be playing in a 100k seat stadium when they cant fill the 42k ones they have? Deano the herd

GENERAL TEXTS

Lee mufc
To matty lfc, you may have won the old 1st div 18 times but that was before you were born. Shut ur bin dippin cake hole!

mark radcliffe mufc

chelsea r nothing but s***
lfc drags itself down with their anti-making of quit, moaning but other refs & death threats from fans etc grow up idiots. ANON
to pedro you've got a lot of mouth for a team that mid table. You lot won't even be in champs league next year. travis

2 (soap) dodger - joss
got off bench n let ur mob av it at cardif ssh, e dun it wen we smash'd 4 past u at anfield and other 15 luvly pts. CHELSKI BLUEBOY

To all you ***'nal, s***'lfc and chavski fans who keep textin in, jealousy will get you no-where, u couldnt even fill a ground pub together. st 5x

paisley took over a good side from shankly ferrie built a side from nothing and won the treble. Dolly

To nut loyol. Ha ha ha! Heard it all now - a geordie on his high horse about managers you haven't got a name. dannyboy

hope geordies go down
the season, then michael evan will cum back 2 the green fields of anfield road. Boy Park L.F.C. 5 X.

ha ha ha lets all laff at da kopties, ur winning NOTHING a/c wil win EVERYTHING, explain y u stand by LOSERS?? real ladyj ex lfc

im fed up wid s*** like nyklytic singing lfc's praises, listen red losers. Mid table/playing cr*p/gerro leaving = lfc c crud. end ov. shay toxteh

United united, top on the league, hardis scousers! grovise, samo swinton m'cr
Super super leads, super super leads - £4.99 at smart. tyrone manchester

U kopites can see no further than da shankley gates, accept it ur pants 1 goal away from home, nuff said. manc man
lfc couldnt fill away end at boro, best supporters my a*** blue nose macca
4GET YA ROONEY Z YA GERRARD Z NYA RONALDOZ...VAN PERSIE Z BEZT PLAYER IN PREM IF NOT DA WORLD. LADYJ EX LFC
2 NYKLYTIC N THOMMO LFC, ALL KOPITES R PINK. MUFC 4 EVA YEAH. COOKIE MUFC
the more we are hated!
The stronger we become! Eric lfc
to all lfc fans prem league has best players in world 8x champs div 1 2nd rate players in 2nd rate league manchester la la la. mufc1978
to bulbowa nearly men ha. Best supported yet again u dont even own your own ground phillirino
to sturis lfc, typical, arrogant, aggressive, big headed, i wonder why ALL other fans sing "we all hate leeds". S43 Blade
2 hewi ha ha bet dave dont like the pies in glasgow. jimmy lfc
this time next year leigh centurions and r.m.i will av a brand new stadium but with no name! I think it should b called the lobby bowl!
STE RIDYARD
2 all leads utd fans. HA HA HA HA HA HA HA Brianforested Nott'n
walcott iz better than rooney already just wait til he's 18 he'll b worth 100 mil shrek worth nowt. robbro the gooner
2 glosop, euro was easy then?? It was knockout, 2nd chances like u had wen ya won ya 2nd 1st, always in r shadow! 18ge, 5euro, end of!
red L
eggchasers my a.e it a mans game try it some time lloyd, ted stricker
to TOM HUYTON REDS
lucy and wally snare rugby league, u knowless wool, ur like all other wool kirby kopites. U dont live in the city. dano efc
How many more people out there i hoping benfica can knock man u out of europe two years in a row. W lfc
ladyj u annoying little txl faker, pls sign ur OWN NAME 2 txls, u must really wanna be an efc fan 2 keep pretending 2 be us. geek. joanna efc
to tom huyton red, we've improved, you've done the opposite and yet u think our season's over?
grahamEFC
Leeds look forward to your derby with chesterfield next season!
PREMIERSHIP BLADE!

SPORTWORD

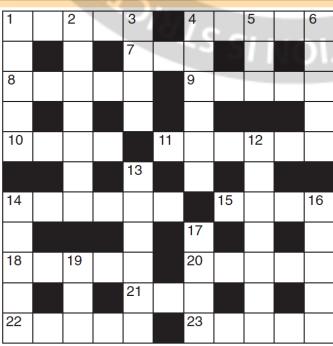
CROSS

1. Rugby Union's Six Nations champions in 2005 (5)
4. Becker, Wimbledon men's singles champion on three occasions (5)
5. Muhammad ..., world heavyweight champion on three occasions (3)
8. Michelle, Irish swimmer who won three Olympic gold medals in 1996 (5)
9. O'Donnell, women's 5,000 metres world champion in 1997 (5)
10. Sharks, rugby union club (4)
11. USA's 2006 Ryder Cup captain (6)
14. Everton's on-loan Manchester United goalkeeping (6)
15. Cincinnati, baseball team (4)
18. Charlton Athletic and England defender (5)
20. Lennon, Spurs and England forward (5)
21. Sutton, winner of golf's US PGA title in 1989 (3)
22. Johnson, one of Australia's rugby union coaches (5)
23. Jason, Middlesbrough's former Charlton Athletic forward (5)

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DOWN

1. London, Lawrence Dallaglio's club (5)
2., former Scotland and British Lions scrum half (7)
3. Manchester United and France striker (4)
4. Venue of shooting's Queen's Prize (6)
5. David, Cheltenham Gold Cup winner in 1989 (3)
6. Women's hockey Olympic champions in 1992 (5)
12. John, Wimbledon men's singles champion for the first time in 1981 (7)
13. Ian, greatest place to general, Celtic and England striker (6)
14. Bob, men's 100 metres Olympic champion in 1964 (5)
16., Gavaskar, former India batsman and coach (5)
17. Irvin, US Open golf champion on three occasions (4)
19. Eboue, Middlesbrough and England defender (3)



5 FOR FUN

- Which Welsh regional rugby team play home matches at the Liberty Stadium?
- Which 18-year-old defender made his England debut in the recent 1-1 draw with Holland?
- Which horse, with the same name as an internet search engine, was runner-up to Desert Orchid in the 1989 Cheltenham Gold Cup?
- Which midfielder scored 27 goals for England in 62 internationals?
- What has been sponsored by Schweppes Britannia Assurance and PPP Healthcare?

Answers: Page 85

Kev: No loss in defeat

■ by JEREMY CROSS

KEVIN DAVIES reckons Bolton's defeat to Chelsea can help inspire Sam Allardyce's men to have one of the best seasons ever at The Reebok.

Though they were beaten 1-0 by the champions, El-Hadji Diouf and Nicolas Anelka squandered good chances to pinch a draw.

Now Davies feels Bolton's performance has proved they can live with the best and has set them up nicely

to challenge for a place in the Champions League.

Davies said: "We put them under a lot of pressure in the second half."

"We gave a decent performance against one of the best teams in Europe."

"We just have to make sure we keep playing like that and then we will win plenty of games."

● **Danny Fullbrook is on holiday**

SERIOUSLY
football Grin up north for Cole as decision

BOND MADE



■ by JEREMY CROSS

ASHLEY COLE reckons some male bonding in the backyard of their greatest rivals has given Chelsea the mental strength to claim a hat-trick of Premiership crowns.

José Mourinho's men spent five days in Manchester preparing for key clashes against United and then Bolton.

An impressive return of four points from a possible six has left the Chelsea boss more than satisfied as his side tries to keep pace with Sir Alex Ferguson's leaders.

Cole is convinced the time spent together has done them the power of good and also helped him feel more part of the scene following his high-profile switch from Arsenal last summer.

He even admits the closeness of Mourinho's multi-national squad is so strong that some of the players prefer to be away with the team than at home with their partners!

The England star said: "These last two games have been tough but staying up in Manchester has been a good opportunity for me to get to know the lads better."

Terrific

"We have all bonded – playing computer games and hanging out together that has been great."

"Don't tell the wives but I reckon a lot of the guys don't mind being away from home!"

"The win at Bolton was a terrific result for us. We needed it after we felt we wasted a great chance of a win at Manchester United."

"Bolton are a very strong team up there. We knew how physical they would be and they made it very hard for us."

"I've suffered here a few times with Arsenal because we struggled to match them physically – especially me, because I am only a little one."

"But we showed with Chelsea how to play Bolton. We defended well and the midfield players in front of us did a great job in that respect as well."

"Doing so well at The Reebok will give us a lot of confidence for when we go to other tricky grounds."

"It was even more important to get three points with Manchester United winning again and them playing again this weekend, when we haven't got a match."

"If we had not won, we could have been eight or nine points behind them at the start of next week."

"It could still be six but with a game in hand and them having to come to our place, that is nothing to worry about."

to stay in camp keeps Mourinho's men in the hunt

US LICENSED TO THRILL



HAVING A BALL:
Chelsea midfielder
Michael Ballack scores
the only goal at Bolton

TREBLE RAP HITS BLUES

From Back Page
fall. He's obviously had a look at it – or got people to look at it – and decided that's probably the best option for him and it covers every angle."

An FA spokesman said: "This claim is denied by Graham Poll. The charge has been brought on the basis that John Terry's comments question Graham Poll's integrity, therefore constituting improper conduct."

Terry has until December 15 to respond, while Mourinho will receive an FA letter telling him to stop post-match rants at officials.

Regarding Cole's claim that Poll said Chelsea "needed to be taught a lesson," the FA spokesman said: "Poll did not say this. There will be no action on this matter."

Fergie's fury

From Back Page
blow up in their faces this time last year.

They drew with Everton, lost to Benfica and suffered the humiliation of finishing bottom of their Champions League group, lost 4-1 at Middlesbrough and drew 1-1 with Manchester City.

Crucial

They go to Boro tomorrow, before home clashes with Benfica and then City determined not to see their season evaporate.

Neville revealed Fergie and the players had a summit meeting to ram home the crucial nature of the next flurry of games.

The United skipper said: "We talked about the importance of this run. This stage last season

was the time where we dropped some crucial points and we're not going to do that this time. We can't afford to do it."

Ferguson knows they let Chelsea off the hook and missed the chance to set up a six-point lead at the top.

He accepted Mourinho's observation that Chelsea had more reason to be pleased with the point than United but said: "Jose fights for his club off the field as well as on it and he is never shy of trying to get in a psychological jab when he sees the opportunity."

JOSE MOURINHO is considering signing Valencia's Portugal international Miguel to solve Chelsea's problem right-back spot. Miguel played under Mourinho during his time at Benfica.

Zola: Sheva is still suffering

CHELSEA great Gianfranco Zola last night claimed Andrey Shevchenko is suffering from World Cup burn-out.

The Ukraine striker has scored just three Premierships goals since his record £30m summer move from AC Milan. Shevchenko, 30, terrorised Serie A defences for years and was named the 2004 European Footballer of the Year.

But his lacklustre form for Jose Mourinho's champions has created amazement in both England and Italy.

He impressed in the Blues' 1-0 win at Bolton on Wednesday night but once again failed to score.

And Zola, who had seven glorious seasons at Stamford Bridge and was chosen as Chelsea's greatest-ever player, insisted Sheva is mentally and physically "drained" after playing five games at this summer's World Cup finals in Germany.

■ by STEVE GOODMAN

draw up a balance sheet on Sheva. Let's give him time.

"He has technical abilities that only a madman would question. In a few months' time all this talk will be a long way in the past."

Shevchenko yesterday insisted he is totally committed and hungry for success at Chelsea.

He said: "I have total respect for the Chelsea club and fans as well as for football in England and the culture of the country."

"There are always good and not so good moments in sport, that's normal. If that means there is opinion and criticism I respect that."

SOCCER SHOTS

■ THE FA have charged Shrewsbury and Chester with failing to ensure their players conducted themselves in an orderly fashion. A brawl erupted after the final whistle of the Shrews' 2-1 win over Chester on Saturday.

■ NORWICH manager Peter Grant has confirmed he is hoping to sign on-loan Derby goalkeeper Lee Camp on a permanent deal in January.

■ CLAUDE DAVIS is out for at least three weeks. Sheffield United's record signing damaged knee ligaments in the win at Watford on Tuesday.

■ BRISTOL CITY are ready to make a second attempt to raid Nottingham Forest for Grant Holt, who has already rejected a £300,000 move to Ashton Gate.

■ WIGAN will let 18-year-old Polish midfielder Tomasz Cywka extend his loan spell with Oldham until January.

■ BARROW defender James Cotterill has admitted in court that he punched Bristol Rovers' striker Sean Rigg, causing him grievous bodily harm, during the FA Cup first round tie. Cotterill, charged with violent conduct by the FA, will be sentenced on January 5.

■ AUSTRALIAN defender Hayden Foxe is poised to agree a permanent contract with Leeds after impressing boss Dennis Wise.

■ THE FA have demanded an explanation from QPR after bottle was thrown towards referee Uriah Rennie on Tuesday night. The missile was hurled from the home section of Loftus Road during the 2-1 league defeat by Sunderland.

■ WOLVES and Stoke are on the trail of Arsenal's £1m-rated striker Anthony Stokes, who has scored 11 SPL goals while on loan at Falkirk.

■ BLACKBURN boss Mark Hughes is ready to move for Liverpool's Stephen Warnock as Lucas Neill is likely to leave in January after refusing a new deal.

■ SWANSEA have signed French defender Sylvain Meslier on a month's loan after he impressed on trial.

Park strife

HULL chairman Adam Pearson has refused to hand manager Phil Parkinson a vote of confidence after admitting he was "embarrassed" by Tuesday's thrashing at Colchester.

Pearson is running out of patience with Parkinson and it is understood that he has given him two more games to save his job.

Now Pearson wants to see an immediate response against Southampton.

He said of the 5-1 debacle at Layer Road: "It was an embarrassment, unacceptable. I never want to see anything like that again."

"It's a real test and we'll certainly see what people are made of now."

Mow puts the lot on trial

TONY MOWBRAY has placed his whole West Bromwich Albion squad on trial until the January transfer window.

The frustrated Albion manager is desperately searching for a solution to the slump which has seen his new side lose six of their last nine games and fall out of the promotion race.

Cash

And ahead of tomorrow's clash with promotion-chasing Derby, Mowbray has warned his entire staff that they are playing for their futures at the club after being told by chairman Jeremy Peace that he will

have to raise any transfer funds by selling one of the club's main assets.

Mowbray, who could cash in on highly-rated Curtis Davies, said: "I am assessing the players now to see what they can and cannot do and what we need to bring in."

"We are trying to put the demands on the players we have got."

"We've lots of good footballers but there are a few chinks in our armour."



MOWBRAY: Tough

Sales pitch by Gareth

■ by RALPH ELLIS

GARETH BARRY last night warned Aston Villa they can't just sit back and wait for the cavalry to come in January.

Boss Martin O'Neill is looking forward to the transfer window opening so he can spend some of millionaire owner Randy Lerner's money.

But skipper Barry believes the current squad must make Villa attractive to new faces with a good result at Portsmouth

tomorrow after losing at home to Manchester City.

He said: "If we are going to strengthen in January we need to get as many points on the board as we can now."

"We've made a good start and it's important we don't throw it away."

"We have had one flat performance against City and have to make sure we don't have two."

Warn's Europe dream

■ by JEREMY CROSS

NEIL WARNOCK has revealed his 58th birthday wish – he wants to lead Sheffield United into Europe before he retires.

Warnock, on the eve of his seventh anniversary as Blades boss, is out of contract at the end of this season.

But he wants a new one so he can fulfil his remaining ambition of helping the Blades into Europe for the first time in the club's history.

Warnock, whose side face relegation rivals Charlton at Bramall Lane tomorrow, aims to reach his goal by the time he is 60 so he can call time on his career.

Nice

He said: "I'd like to get us into Europe within two years, then call it a day."

"That would be a nice way to finish."

"It would be one of my greatest achievements to keep us up but there is no reason why we then cannot reach Europe."

"We are trying to take this club to another level."

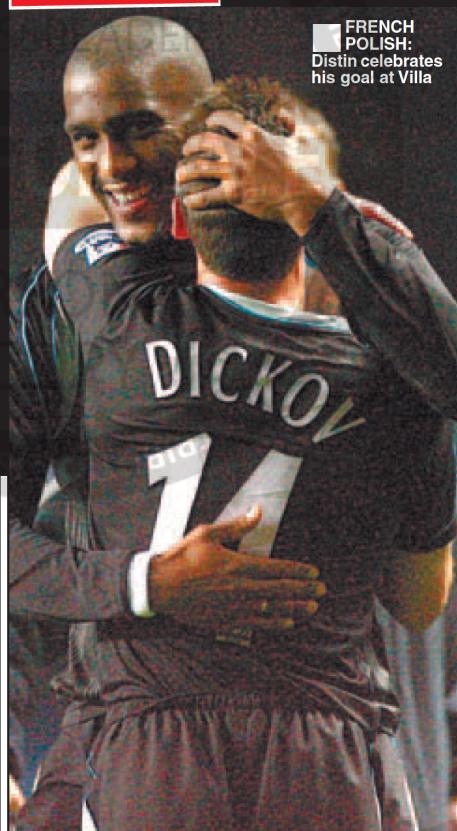
"The contract situation is not ideal but I'm going to Europe with the chairman next week and will be speaking to him."

"But we have an understanding and I think he will want to reward me for the job I'm doing."

**SERIOUSLY
football**

Contract rebel Distin hits back at greedy jibes

FRENCH POLISH:
Distin celebrates
his goal at Villa



GOAL WAS PROOF I'M TRUE BLUE

SYLVAIN DISTIN believes his stunning goal at Aston Villa has proved he is still giving his all for Manchester City.

The French defender has been embroiled in a season-long contract row after refusing to sign a new £40,000-a-week deal that would have made him the club's highest earner.

Angry

City fear he will walk out for free in the summer, forcing them to write off the £4m they paid Paris St Germain in 2002. Angry fans have labelled him greedy.

But the 28-year-old insisted last night: "I have now shown to people who don't think I am here for the right reasons, that I am.

■ by RALPH ELLIS

My goal was a little message – and it came through determination and nothing else.

"It was important for me because of the situation I am in.

"There have been lots of people talking and saying things that are not true and so far I have never answered and just shown what I am about on the pitch."

City boss Stuart Pearce has pledged to do all he can to keep ex-captain Distin with the Blues.

He said: "His athleticism was there for all to see from the goal and I think he thoroughly deserved to get some more credit at the other end of the pitch for the defensive work he's done."

"When he strode up the pitch, a young impressionable manager

like me, when leading 2-1 and under a bit of pressure is telling him to get back and defend."

"But he is a Rolls-Royce when he gets into his stride and his finish was fantastic."

City face relegation strugglers Watford on Monday with a sudden chance to enter the race for European places.

Tight

And Pearce said: "There is a nice work ethic in the camp at the moment and we need to use this as a platform to build on, as we are five points off third place in the league."

"That is how tight it is. Manchester United and Chelsea are going to forge their way ahead, but, regarding the rest of us, anyone can beat anyone."

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SERIOUSLY
football

Roeder's Euro heroes win the Group of Death



TORN UP: Steven Taylor gets a new shirt after an ugly studs-up tackle by Amanatidis (below) left him with weals on his back

NEWCASTLE last night demonstrated just why they have emerged from the UEFA Cup's Group of Death unscathed and on top of the pile.

Few gave the out-of-sorts Toon a chance of winning the group when the draw was made two months ago but against an Eintracht side hell-bent on kickstarting their own campaign, the battling visitors showed qualities rarely associated with Newcastle teams past or present.

Outplayed they may have been – but not once were Glenn Roeder's men outfought or outrun.

At times, Newcastle kept the ball impressively, trying to take the sting out of Eintracht's game with their possession football.

This was a night when discipline, organisation and old-fashioned English defiance were the qualities required.

For all their stubborn defending, Newcastle were fortunate to keep the scoreline goalless with the Germans missing several chances either side of half-time.

But Newcastle had a glorious chance after 61 minutes when sub Oba Martins' cross was met by Antoine Sibierski whose header was cleared off the line by Sotiris Kyrgiakos.

And with ten minutes to go Emre was denied by a fine save from Markus Proll after bursting through into the box.

Mean

Needing a win to keep their own qualification hopes alive, Eintracht had so much more to play for than Roeder's Group H table-toppers.

With a 47,000 full house inside the Commerzbank Arena cranking up the atmosphere, the Germans played with a high tempo from the outset and soon had Newcastle on the backfoot.

But the Toon's backline had tightened up significantly in recent weeks and it needed to be at its most mean in the early stages as Eintracht poured forward.

With Japanese international Naohiro Takahara, nicknamed the Sushi Bomber, leading the charge with his forceful runs down the left, Newcastle found themselves pinned back for long periods.

Titus Bramble blocked a goalbound effort from Markus Weissenberger, Steven Taylor got in the way of an Albert Streit piledriver and Peter Ramage whipped the ball off the head of Ioannis Amanatidis.

Newcastle had started with Sibierski as a lone frontman supported by a five-man midfield, leaving the Frenchman an isolated figure in attack.

Consequently, on one of the few occasions the visitors broke upfield, he found himself crowded out as he tried to meet a James Milner cross.

And when Charles N'Zogbia decided to go it alone with a lung-busting surge through the middle, he slipped on the edge of the area.

But these were rare raids into opposi-

TOON ARE ON TOP OF THE PILE

from IAN MURTAGH in Frankfurt
Eint Frankfurt... 0 Newcastle... 0



tion territory for the Toon who would have fallen behind on 24 minutes but for a superb save from Shay Given.

The Irish keeper reacted brilliantly to keep out a point blank header from Streit who had stolen in behind the defence to meet Weissenberger's right wing cross.

Weissenberger was the Eintracht architect again two minutes later, finding the head of Amanatidis who failed to hit the target from just eight yards out.

The same combination again sliced open the Toon rearguard after half an hour but again Amanatidis' radar was malfunctioning, firing over the top from inside the box.

Nol Solano had coped admirably in an unfamiliar full-back role in recent weeks

but the little Peruvian had no answer to Takahara's trickery and picked up a yellow card for bringing him down just outside the box.

Eintracht's Streit and Amanatidis followed him into Pedro Proenca's notebook.

Pressure

Taylor became the fourth player to be cautioned by the Portuguese official in as many minutes when he ran on to the pitch without permission after changing his ripped shirt – the result of Amanatidis' studs-first tackle.

The Bundesliga side continued to press with Kyrgiakos heading a Streit set-piece wide but after soaking up so much pressure, it was Newcastle who finished the

first half on top, Emre curling a left-foot shot wide after a quickly-taken free-kick.

Eintracht dominated after the break and were guilty of an incredible double miss in the 52nd minute.

Takahara's cross reached Amanatidis only for the Greek forward to fluff his header with the goal gaping and Streit farewelled no better with a wild air-shot at the far post.

If Albert Luque had hoped for a lucky break after being involved in a car crash the previous day, he was to be disappointed. The Spaniard was anonymous before being replaced by Martins before an hour was gone.

TEAMS

EINTRACHT FRANKURT: Proll, Vasovski, Kyrgiakos, Spycher, Behmer, Streit, Hugel, Weissenberger, Takahara, Amanatidis, Kohler. Subs: Nikolov, Ochs, Fink, Cimini, Reinhard, Russ, Huber.

NEWCASTLE: Given, Ramage, Bramble, Taylor, Solano, Emre, Milner, Butt, N'Zogbia, Sibierski, Luque. Subs: Forster, Martins, Huntington, Pattison, Carroll, Edgar, Troisi.

Referee: P Proenca (Portugal).

Information Station

FOOTBALL

UEFA Cup Group E
 Nancy (2) A Feyenoord (0) A
 Polychroni 22 Sem-off: Drentie 61

Match abandoned after 80 mins, crowd trouble

Wista Krakow (1) Basiel (1) 1

Broek 11, 83 Petrie 8

Paulista 9 0

Sent-off: Cleber 88 Att: 5,000

Blackburn (0) 3 P W D F A Pts

AS Nancy 2 1 0 4 3 4

Wista Krakow 3 1 0 2 5 5 3

Feyenoord 2 0 2 0 1 2

Basiel 0 2 2 4 9 2

Group F

Ajax (0) 0 Espanyol (1) 2

Att: 41,248 Pandiani 36 Conn 7

Austria Magna (0) 0 Sparta Prague (1) 1

Att: 8,600 Reipa 11

P W D F A Pts

Espanyol (0) 3 2 0 10 2 9

Zulte Waregem 3 2 0 9 8 6

Ajax 3 1 1 3 2 4

Sparta Prague 4 1 1 2 5 4

Austria Magna 3 0 2 1 8 0

Group G

Madz Boleslav (0) 0 PSG (0) 0

Att: 8,480 Sem-off: Diane 45

Panathinaikos (0) 0 R Bucharest (0) 0

Att: 18,000 Sem-off: Constantin 85

P W D F A Pts

Panathinaikos (0) 3 2 0 5 2 7

Hapoel Tel Aviv 3 1 1 6 6 4

Rapid Bucarest 3 0 4 0 3 3 4

Madz Boleslav 3 1 1 2 2 2

Paris St Germain 3 0 2 1 4 2

Group H

E Frankfurt (0) 0 Newcastle (0) 0

Att: 47,000

Cella Vigo (0) 1 Fenerbahce (0) 0

Cannobio 77 0 Att: 12,000

P W D F A Pts

Newcastle (0) 4 3 0 4 1 10

Cella Vigo 3 1 1 3 3 4

Fenerbahce 3 1 0 2 3 2

Palermo 3 1 0 2 5 3

Eintracht Frankfurt 3 0 2 2 3 2

Friendship Norwich 1, Manchester United XI 2

CRICKET

Third Test (day 4 of 5) Karachi:

Pakistan 304 (Yousuf 102) and 399-6
 (Hafeez 104, Younis 124, Inzamam 58, Waqar 260, Gangi 81, Ramiz 50) & 282-5

One-Day International – Khulna:

Zimbabwe 184-9, Bangladesh 186-1

(Nafees 105no, Ahmed 60no). Bangladesh won by 9 wkt.

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Belfast 5 Manchester 4

TODAY'S DAY

FOOTBALL

(7.45pm unless stated)

FA Cup Second Round

Bradford v Millwall

King's Lynn v Oldham (8pm)

Stockport v Wycombe

BASKETBALL

British Basketball League: Chester Jets v Coventry Crusaders (7.30pm)

CRICKET

(4pm unless stated)

NatWest International Twenty20 – Johannesburg: South Africa v India

RUGBY UNION

(7.40pm unless stated)

EDF Energy Cup

Cardiff Blues v London Irish

Saracens v Wasps

Magners League: Edinburgh v Borders (7.30pm)

TENNIS

Davis Cup World Group Final (day 1 of 3) Moscow: Russia v Argentina.

YESTERDAY'S SPORTWORLD

ACROSS: 1 Campbell, 7 Louis, 8 Sergio, 9 Cottee, 10 Cesc, 12 Wind, 14 Dennis, 15 Oviedo, 16 Roberto, 19 Berti, 20 DONALD, 1 Coult, 2 Master, 3 Best, 4 Lame, 5 Blackwell, 6 Leicester, 11 George, 13 Ngugi, 15 Nicoll, 16 Park.

FIVE FOR FUN ANSWERS

1 Berti, 2 Oviedo, 3 Michael Richards, 3 Yahoo!, 4 David Platt, 5 Cricket's County Championship.

Les read riot act

■ by PAUL BROWN

LES REED claims getting ripped to shreds by Reading helped Charlton win back their hunger for Premiership survival.

The Addicks boss admits his struggling side hit rock bottom after a 2-0 defeat at the Madejski Stadium.

But Reed feels showdown talks with his players helped Charlton turn the corner with a draw against Everton last Saturday.

He said: "The Reading game hurt the players.

"But the response was clear:

"They felt they needed to do something about it.

"They must keep it going."

SERIOUSLY
football

It's pay-back time for Jol as he aims to nail

Carra's away daze

JAMIE Carragher fears time is fast running out for Liverpool to end their away-day misery if they are to have any chance of making the top four.

The Kop defender admits Rafael Benitez's side blew a gilt-edged chance to break into the top four in Wednesday's dismal shut-out against Portsmouth.

And the fact that Liverpool's main rivals for a Champions League spot all dropped crucial points added to the pain.

But while Carragher knows the scoreless draw with Pompey was unacceptable, he claims the

■ by DAVE LYONS

real problem lies away from Anfield. Benitez's men have registered just one goal and two points in seven depressing Premiership trips.

Liverpool will try to end that streak at Wigan tomorrow — and until they do, Carragher believes the pressure on their home performances will grow out of control.

The England man said: "When you look at how the other results went this week, we're even worse. Villa, Arsenal,

Bolton and Everton all losing gave us a big opportunity which we haven't taken.

"Our home record has been fantastic for well over a year, but when you don't win enough away games you're putting yourself under far more pressure to keep winning at home."

Liverpool's shot-shy strikers will at least be boosted by the return of Craig Bellamy who missed the Pompey clash because of a court date.

The Welshman was cleared of the assault charges that have been hanging over him.

WE'LL

SPEAR WE
GO: Spurs' striker Jermain Defoe hurls a corner flag during training



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Fulham was farce forward

ANGRY Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger had ANOTHER moan over the fixture list he claims is wrecking his side's season.

After Wednesday's defeat at Fulham he slammed the fixture as a "farce".

And yesterday Wenger expressed his frustration at having to face a Spurs team who did not have a midweek fixture in tomorrow's crucial north London derby.

The game is the second in a sequence of four in 12 days that the Frenchman has described as his side's "moment of truth".

Uneven

After tomorrow's game they travel to Porto for a crucial Champions League clash, then face Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

But Wenger is unhappy at what he sees as an uneven playing field.

"We have a difficult game coming up against Tottenham, and I do not agree at all with the way the fixtures have been organised — it is a farce," he said. "I cannot

understand how the Premier League can organise midweek fixtures in between Champions League games. They are very creative because to get that system through anywhere else in Europe, you will have big problems.

"We play now against opponents who did not play this week — but we will beat them."

The Arsenal boss made several changes at Fulham but could face another selection headache tomorrow with the news that striker Thierry Henry is doubtful.

Henry's neck problem could sideline him again after he missed last Saturday's defeat at Bolton.

Wenger said: "Thierry has to be assessed and we will make a decision on him tomorrow. It is a problem with his sciatic nerve."

Wenger's men with Dutch of class in derby clash

HEAP MORE AGONY ON GUNNERS

■ by ALISTAIR GRANT

MARTIN JOL last night vowed to do everything in his power to heap more misery on Spurs' bitter rivals Arsenal.

Tottenham will bid to condemn the Gunners to their third defeat in a week in tomorrow's north London derby, the first at Arsenal's new Emirates Stadium HQ.

Arsene Wenger's side have all but disappeared from the title race after being thumped 3-1 at Bolton on Saturday and slumping 2-1 at Fulham on Wednesday.

And now Spurs boss Jol is out to up the agony for Wenger as the men from White Hart Lane bid to draw level with their neighbours on 22 points.

Jol, who suffered the heartbreak of losing a Champions League place to Arsenal on the last day of last season, has emphasised the size of tomorrow's clash to his stars.

"I will use everything in my power for the game," the Dutch boss said.

"My players are grown-ups and know exactly what they are expected to do.

Woes

"They know how important this game is to the supporters and for our position in the League."

"The new players like Dimitar Berbatov and Didier Zokora have just come here but they also know how big it is."

Despite their recent woes, Jol still rates Arsenal as the Premiership's best footballing team.

But Jol did suggest Wenger's policy of bleeding young stars had caught up with the team in the last week.

"Arsenal have played the best football in England for the last six years," Jol said.

"They are still a great team and I feel they've played the best football in England again this season, although they haven't always got results as they haven't always scored."

"Arsenal's away form hasn't been as good as their home form so far this season."

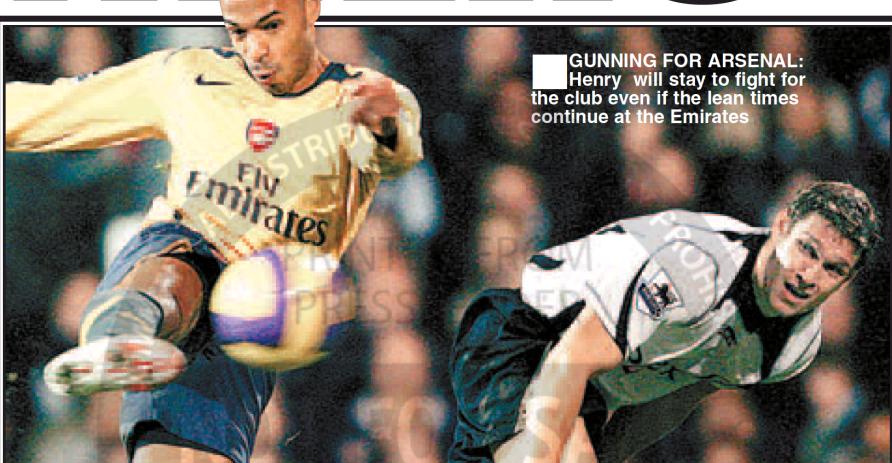
"But they're still fine at home and it would be silly to talk about Arsene Wenger being under pressure."

Yet Jol insists Spurs are now blossoming into a team on a par with Arsenal.

"Pound for pound, we're close to any team," he said.

Centre-back Ledley King is in line to start after shaking off a virus while striker Jermain Defoe could also feature.

JOL: Power trip



GUNNING FOR ARSENAL: Henry will stay to fight for the club even if the lean times continue at the Emirates

Henry's no bottler

■ by DAVID WOODS

"He decided that for all the right reasons, as far as he was concerned, that his future career lay best at Arsenal."

"In this modern day, where pundits say players are mercenary, here is one who – according to people who watch him week-in and week-out – is unquestionably the best player in Europe."

"Maybe being at Arsenal, who are not recognised in the same way as AC Milan, Barcelona and Juventus, is one reason why he's not won the World Player of the Year."

Future

"You talk to most people in the game and anybody who's watched him would admit that he has, pound for pound, been the best player in the world for the last two or three years. Thierry is totally committed to Arsenal and his future in London."

"Anderson also felt Henry, who signed a new four-year deal in the

summer, would not consider leaving if Arsenal go out of the Champions League, which is a possibility if they lose in Porto on Wednesday."

"Thierry's the sort of boy – a bit like Arsene Wenger and people of that ilk – who once they have made a commitment to a contract stick to it, unless other people see fit to change it," he said.

"Henry has scored only once in the Premiership and the player admitted he is still finding his feet at the new Emirates Stadium."

"But Spanish midfielder Cesc Fabregas believes Arsenal's 4-5-1 formation does not help."

"He said: 'At times Thierry can be a bit on his own up front because whether it's me, Tomáš Rosický, Freddie Ljungberg or Julio Baptista playing up there with him, we have to get back and defend as well.'

"Then we have to attack quickly and that makes it hard for us to get up the pitch. That makes it difficult for Thierry because he is on his own up front.'



COLEMAN: Persistent

Chris Ful of Gun-ho spirit

■ by DEAN JONES

FULHAM manager Chris Coleman has revealed how he ended Arsenal's title challenge.

Arsenal's 2-1 defeat at Craven Cottage on Wednesday left Arsene Wenger's team 16 points adrift of leaders Manchester United, and after masterminding the crushing blow Coleman said it was all down to persistence and determination.

"To be fair to Arsenal, they have not been at their best, but that might be because Bolton and ourselves did not let them play," said Coleman.

"I went to watch them against Hamburg, and they tried to stop Arsenal from playing. But Arsenal still managed to find a way through."

Strong

"When you are on the front foot and winning against them then the last thing you do is sit back and defend."

"You have to keep attacking because they are dangerous on the counter."

"That's when I think they are at their most dangerous."

"The reason we did well was because the back four were strong, the three in midfield worked hard to get the ball back, and we attacked in numbers. You have to be quite rigid with them, and European teams will look at that."

Fulham ace Luis Boa Morte last night admitted he had waited seven years to punish Arsenal.

The Portuguese winger left the Gunners to move to Southampton in 1999, before joining the Cottagers two years later.

He was the catalyst behind Fulham's thrilling victory – their first win over Arsenal in 40 years.

"Arsenal supporters must forgive me for this, but it is the result I have been looking for since I left Arsenal," he said.

"Arsenal were the ones who brought me over and started my international career. It is always a special taste when you beat your old side."

"Arsenal are full of quality players. But the most important thing for us was to match them all over the park."

Blues are hit with FA treble rap

■ by ALISTAIR GRANT

ENGLAND skipper John Terry and Chelsea have been hit by a **TREBLE** FA rap after the Battle of White Hart Lane.

Blues star Terry has been charged with improper conduct after claiming ref Graham Poll gave him conflicting reasons for his red card at Spurs.

Boss Jose Mourinho has been ordered to stop public criticism of refs after blasting Poll for Terry's red card and Didier Drogba's disallowed goal.

And, completing the Blues' hat-trick, Soho Square found against Ashley Cole's claim that Poll had told him Chelsea "needed to be taught a lesson."

Ban

Poll was cleared of making the comment in the Blues' controversial 2-1 defeat on November 5.

But England captain Terry is firmly in the dock and facing a fine or ban.

The sent-off defender suggested Poll "covered every angle" by telling him his second yellow card was for two different reasons.

Terry said: "On the pitch, Graham Poll said to me it was for the barge on Hossam Ghaly where I just kept running."

"Then, after the game, he said it was for when me and Ledley King

Turn to Page 83

■ GOING NOWHERE:
James Milner and
Nicky Butt put the block
on Ioannis Amanatidis
last night in Frankfurt



CHELSEA IN THE DOCK 2

FERGIE'S DROG FURY



■ FLASHPOINT: Didier Drogba's challenge on Nemanja Vidic has left Sir Alex Ferguson fuming

SIR ALEX FERGUSON has accused Chelsea striker Didier Drogba of a challenge that could have broken Nemanja Vidic's jaw.

Vidic was taken to hospital for X-rays after Manchester United's 1-1 draw with Chelsea on Sunday and Fergie seethed: "We thought it may be fractured so we sent him for a scan.

"He got an elbow in his jaw. Fortunately it isn't fractured but he is still very, very tender."

■ by DAVE ARMITAGE

What was a concern is that their player only got a yellow card for the use of an elbow which could have caused serious injury."

Tender

Vidic was still feeling tender three days later and missed United's 3-0 victory over Everton on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, United have warned title rivals

Chelsea they won't wilt in the heat of the battle to snatch back the Premiership crown.

United are stinging from Chelsea's back-to-back title glory and are hellbent on stopping them from making modern day history.

And skipper Gary Neville has warned the champions that Ferguson's red machine won't seize up this time around.

Victory over Everton was the first in an identical set of fixtures which saw their season

Turn to Page 83

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